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Douglas J. Pauls, Treasurer
Commerce Bancorp Inc. Political Action
Committee Fed
1701 Route 70 East
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

DEC 1 1 2002

Identification Number:

C00303156

Reference:

April Quarterly Report (1/1/02-3/31/02)

Dear Mr. Pauls:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. The review raised questions concerning certain information contained in the report(s). An itemization follows:

-Schedule A of your report (pertinent portion(s) attached) discloses one or more contributions which appear to exceed the limits set forth in the Act. 2 U.S.C. §441a(f) and 11 CFR §110.1(d) prohibit a committee and its effiliates from receiving any contribution from another political committee or person in excess of \$5,000 per calendar year.

If any apparently excessive contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you must amend your original report with the clarifying information.

If any contribution you received exceeds the limits, you may have to refund the excessive amount. The funds can be retained if within 60 days of receipt, (i) the excessive amount was properly reattributed to another person, such as a joint account holder, by obtaining signed written authorizations from each person making the contribution pursuant to 11 CFR 110.1(k)(3), and (2) the treasurer informs the person making the contribution that he or she may request the return of the excessive portion of the contribution if it is not intended to be a joint contribution. Any request from a denor for a refund must be honored.

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Alternatively, the funds can be retained if within 60 days of receipt you (1) transferred the excessive amount to an account not used to influence federal elections, and (2) provided written notice to the person making the contribution of the option of receiving a refund. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

If the foregoing conditions for reautibutions or transfers to a non-federal account were not met within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount must be refunded.

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of your check for any transfer-out or refund. In addition, any reattributions should be reported as memo entries on Schedule A of the report covering the period during which the authorization for the reattribution is received. Any transfers-out or refunds should be disclosed on Schedule B supporting Line 22 or 28 of the report during which the transaction was made.

Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding the acceptance of an excessive contribution(s), prompt action by your committee to seek reattribution, transfer-out or refund the excessive amount will be taken into consideration.

-Schedule C supporting Line 9 discloses outstanding balances at the close of the period for the LOANS owed to your committee by COMPAC NJ, which differ from FEC calculations. Please amend your report to clarify these discrepancies.

-Schedule B of your report (pertinent portion(s) attached) discloses an excessive contribution(s) made to a federal candidate(s). The Act prohibits a multi-candidate committee from making a contribution to a candidate for federal office in excess of \$5,000 per election. 2 U.S.C. §441a(a)

The Commission notes the Receipt of the Refund of the excessive contribution(s) on your October Quarterly Report. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the excessive contribution(s), your prompt action in obtaining a refund or redesignating the contribution(s) will be taken into consideration.

A response or amendment to your original report(s) correcting the above problem(s) should be filed with the Federal Election Commission within fifteen (15) days of the date of this letter. Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements.

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designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact me on our toll-free number, (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 1, then press 2 to reach the Reports Analysis Division). My local number is (202) 694-1130.

Sincerely,

Alissa V. Sagri

Campaign Finance Analyst Reports Analysis Division

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